

U.S. Application No. 10/090,368 Examiner Matthew Genack Art Unit 2645  
Response to April 20, 2005 Office Action

### AMENDMENT

#### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, below is a complete listing of all claims in the application.

[c01] (currently amended) An automated telephone assistant device, comprising:

a base unit connecting a telephone handset to a network interface device, the network interface device in communication with a telephone network, wherein the base unit is operable for executing a first algorithm disposed within the base unit, the first algorithm and selectively allowing a routing an incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to a telephone handset a telephone handset, the telephone handset having a user identification such that the user identification matches an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset, and the first algorithm further selectively preventing routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset, the telephone handset further having another user identification such that the other user identification matches an instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset, from being transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user.

[c02] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, further comprising an extension control device in communication with the base unit, wherein the extension control device is associated with a predetermined telephone extension and assists the base unit in selectively allowing routing the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset having a user identification matching an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset, and selectively preventing routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another user identification matching an instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset, belonging to the user and selectively preventing the telephone call

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~~received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset  
belonging to the user.~~

[c03] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 2, wherein the base unit and the extension control device communicate via a plurality of signals, wherein the plurality of signals direct the extension control device to generate a ring event for the telephone handset associated with the predetermined telephone extension.

[c04] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein a power source is disposed within the base unit, the power source operable for generating a ring event.

[c05] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 2, wherein a power source is disposed within the extension control device, the power source operable for generating a ring event.

[c06] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 2, wherein the base unit further comprises a second algorithm operable for detecting the presence of and identifying the extension control device.

[c07] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 6, wherein the base unit further comprises a third algorithm operable for assigning a common name and to the extension control device.

[c08] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 7, wherein the base unit further comprises a permanent storage device operable for storing the identity and the common name of the extension control device.

[c09] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the base unit further comprises a dual-tone multi-frequency interface operable for allowing the a user to control the base unit and modify the first algorithm.

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[c10] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the base unit further comprises a voice interface operable for allowing the user to control the base unit and modify the first algorithm.

[c11] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the base unit further comprises a voicemail message that is selectively transmitted to callers.

[c12] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the first algorithm is operable for identifying a caller.

[c13] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 12, wherein the first algorithm selectively routes the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset having a user identification matching an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the identity of the caller, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another user identification matching an instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the identity of the caller. ~~is operable for selectively allowing the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user based upon the identity of the caller.~~

[c14] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the first algorithm selectively routes the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset having an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the time of day, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the time of day. ~~is operable for selectively allowing the telephone call received from the~~

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~~telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user based upon the time of day.~~

[c15] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for selectively~~ allowing routes the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network ~~to be transmitted to one or more telephone handsets in one or more predetermined locations in a structure matching the user identification belonging to the user based upon the time of day and selectively prevents routing of preventing the incoming~~ telephone call received from the telephone network ~~from being transmitted to the one or more telephone handsets in the one or more predetermined locations in the structure matching the user identification belonging to the user based upon the time of day.~~

[c16] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for selectively~~ allowing routes the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network ~~to be transmitted to the telephone handset having an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon entry of an authorization code by a caller, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon entry of the authorization code by a caller, belonging to the user and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user based upon the entry of an authorization code by a caller.~~

[c17] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the first algorithm selectively routes the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset having an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon recognition of a caller's voice, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having

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another instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon recognition of the caller's voice. ~~is operable for selectively allowing the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset belonging to the user based upon the recognition of a caller's voice.~~

[c18] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 1, wherein the base unit is operable for directing the telephone handset ~~belonging to the user~~ to produce a plurality of ringing tones, each of the plurality of ringing tones associated with the ascertained identity of a caller.

[c19] (original) The automated telephone assistant device of claim 2, wherein the extension control device is operable for providing a common connection to a plurality of telephone lines.

[c20] (currently amended) An automated telephone assistant method, comprising:

providing a base unit connecting a telephone handset to a network interface device, the network interface device in communication with a telephone network;

disposing a first algorithm within the base unit;

executing the first algorithm;

selectively allowing ~~a~~ an incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to be ~~transmitted~~ routed to ~~a~~ the telephone handset; and

selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being ~~transmitted~~ routed to the telephone handset.

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[c21] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, further comprising providing an extension control device in communication with the base unit, wherein the extension control device is associated with a predetermined telephone extension and assists the base unit in selectively allowing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being ~~transmitted~~ routed to the telephone handset.

[c22] (original) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 21, further comprising directing the extension control device to generate a ring event for the telephone handset associated with the predetermined telephone extension.

[c23] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 21, further comprising disposing a second algorithm within the base unit, the second algorithm ~~operable for~~ detecting the presence of and identifying the extension control device.

[c24] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 23, further comprising disposing a third algorithm within the base unit, the third algorithm ~~operable for~~ assigning a common name to the extension control device.

[c25] (original) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 24, further comprising storing the identity and the common name of the extension control device within a permanent storage device disposed within the base unit.

[c26] (original) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, further comprising allowing a user to control the base unit and modify the first algorithm via a dual-tone multi-frequency interface.

[c27] (original) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, further comprising allowing a user to control the base unit and modify the first algorithm via a voice interface.

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**[c28] (original)** The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, further comprising selectively transmitting a voicemail message to callers.

**[c29] (currently amended)** The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for identifying~~ identifies a caller.

**[c30] (currently amended)** The automated telephone assistant method of claim 29, wherein the first algorithm selectively routes the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the identity of the caller, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the identity of the caller. ~~is operable for selectively allowing the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset upon the identity of the caller.~~

**[c31] (currently amended)** The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, wherein the first algorithm selectively routes the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the time of day, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon the time of day. ~~is operable for selectively allowing the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset based upon the time of day.~~

**[c32] (currently amended)** The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for selectively allowing~~ routes the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to one or more telephone handsets in one or more predetermined locations in a structure matching the user identification belonging to the ~~user~~ based upon the time of day and ~~selectively prevents routing of~~ preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the one or

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more telephone handsets in the one or more predetermined locations in the structure matching the user identification belonging to the user based upon the time of day.

[c33] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for selectively allowing routes~~ the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset having an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon entry of an authorization code by a caller, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon entry of the authorization code by a caller. ~~and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset based upon the entry of an authorization code by a caller.~~

[c34] (currently amended) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, wherein the first algorithm ~~is operable for selectively allowing routes~~ the telephone call received from the telephone network to be transmitted to the telephone handset having an instruction to route the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon recognition of a caller's voice, and selectively prevents routing of the incoming telephone call received from the telephone network to the telephone handset having another instruction to prevent routing of the incoming telephone call to the telephone handset based upon recognition of the caller's voice. ~~and selectively preventing the telephone call received from the telephone network from being transmitted to the telephone handset based upon the recognition of a caller's voice.~~

[c35] (original) The automated telephone assistant method of claim 20, further comprising directing the telephone handset to produce a plurality of ring tones, each of the plurality of ring tones associated with the ascertained identity of a caller.